

THE MAN OF THE MOMENT and his chances.
PARIS, Feb. 22.—The new French President

PAUL, FCO. 21.—The new French Premier is a stalwart Vosgian, standing high on his

legs, broad shouldered, solidly built of muscle and flesh, and carrying no fat. M. Jules Ferry is neither elegant in dress and manner nor does he have the refinement and grace of an aristocrat. At first sight one would compare him to the accepted type of the coffee-house waiter thanks to certain characteristics of which the Parisian caricaturists have taken undue advantage. A closer examination of the features of the man's face makes the physiognomist a more modest and intelligent than certain asperities, indicating a firmness going even to obstinacy; the long nose of ambitious people—curved, twisted, to meated—a nose made to smell out tricks and pitfalls; a sensual and softening mouth; a chin that is not so soft as the long bushy whiskers marking the face; bones and prominent jaw that are supposed to be signs of combativeness. M. Ferry has proved himself to be the man of his physique, and it means of a variety of qualities, of which a single one is exceptional or brilliant if it kindles the imagination. He is the first of the new men of the republic. M. Ferry is the only man in the Republican party at present except M. Clémenceau, whose hour has not yet come, whom the Conservatives do not regard as a dangerous, if not a respectable rival. He is the man who has led the new Ferry Cabinet remaining in power for a relatively considerable length of time, and of its accomplishing very important reforms and changes. It may perhaps be interesting to briefly the origin and the career of the man whom the majority has entrusted to the direction of the affairs of France.

M. Jules Ferry was called to the bar and became a lawyer, but he was not a republican. He left his children a modest fortune, just sufficient to assure their independence.

M. Jules Ferry was called to the bar and became a lawyer to practise at Paris, but finding success there slow in coming, he threw himself into journalism, editing the *Journal* and *Le Progrès* successively in Emile de Girardin's *La Presse*, and in the *Courrier de Paris*, and in *Le Temps*, where he published a series of articles on the administration of the Prefect of the Seine in which have remained famous under the name of "Les Compagnons du Mayeux," a "man of straw."

At this time, 1857, M. Ferry belonged to a group composed of MM. Ernest Picard, Charles Floquet, Hérold, Hérisson, Philas, and Emile Olivier. M. Ferry was the meeting place where they assembled to discuss the means of opposition to the Government of the Emperor. M. Ferry was authoritative; the means of opposition were limited to conversations and newspaper articles. In which criticism of the Government appeared. In its acts was concealed under a literary form.

In 1863 M. Ferry published a *Manuel Electoral*, which caused much talk. Later on, in 1864, he was elected Deputy in the Chamber of Deputies. He was elected Deputy in the Chamber of Deputies in the Sixth arrondissement of Paris. He is continuing his administration of the Prefect of the Seine against the administration of the Prefect of the Seine.

fect of the Seine, and against official conduct. He is regarded as one of the most famous figures of the Commune. In 1870, after the revolution of the 4th of September, M. Jules Ferry was a member of the Government of the National Defence and finally became Mayor of Paris after the day of the barricades. During the troublous times, and also during the Commune, he was in the front line. That is undeniable. M. Ferry was not afraid of the rioters. On the day of the outbreak of the Commune, March 18th, he had been assassinated at Montmartre. Thiers, his successor, had ordered the members of the Government had gone to Versailles. The hands of the army were pressed on the Champs Elysées in order to evacuate Paris. All day M. Ferry had been sending demands after despatch reporters, granting means of defence. Finally the rioters had taken possession of the Hotel de Ville. The terror: Hotel de Ville, 15 Mars, 9.35. The troops have evacuated the Hotel de Ville. This shall be the last to go out. The insurgents are on the march. They are arriving on the square discharging their muskets. J. Ferry. But even the rioters tried to the Mairie of the First arrondissement.

ness to stem the insurrection. The meeting broke up at nearly midnight, and the Mayor and his council were surrounded by a crowd of National Guardsmen, who were determined to prevent them from leaving the city. In vain, for meanwhile M. Ferry had resolutely maintained and escaped by a back door coming to the Church of Saint Germain l'Auxerrois. The next morning M. Ferry was at Versailles, surrounded by a crowd of National Guardsmen, and with courage on this occasion there more so because he was cordially hailed by the National Assembly, which was then in session at the beginning of November, 1870, when he became Mayor of Paris, he accepted the terrible responsibility of the defence of the city.

M. Ferry was the first who dared to propose arming the people, city by city. This was the first step in the revolutionary movement. M. Ferry's first proposal was to what date can you find the beginning and end of the revolution? To within a day, replied M. Ferry. But, you will sooner have my tongue cut out than tell me the date of the revolution. I have no one ought to know it except the Government. The Parisians never pardoned M. Ferry the Vice-President of the National Assembly for prolonging the resistance of Paris. It seemed absurd and incredible, but it is so. Since the Revolution, his name has been connected with all the important political events of France. M. Ferry appointed himself Trofet of the Republic, and he was elected provisionally President of the Republic. Then there was talk of sending him to represent France at Washington, and so he sent him to Athens, where he remained until the fall of the Republic. At the fall of the Republic he returned to Paris and

lean Left, and took an active part in the campaign against the De Broglie Ministry. He was elected President of the group of the Left for the Chamber of Deputies in 1906. M. Ferry refused, saying: "Now men are in new situations. In the following year when I shall be 60, I must resign." He then asked M. Dufaure to remain as president of the head of the Ministry. M. Dufaure refused, saying: "I am too old to ask men to fill them." M. Waddington was the new man who in 1879 undertook the formation of the Ministry. He was a man of great energy and became his collaborator as Minister of Public Instruction. The resignation of Marshal MacMahon was followed by the formation of the Ministry of M. Waddington. Since then, as Minister and President, M. Ferry has connected his name with three great events in the history of France: the separation of the Church and the State, the revision of the constitution, and the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine. Now that he is nearly 80 years of age, he seems to execute a serious and important task. He has been called "the great man of the century." He has been called "the great man of the century." He has been called "the great man of the century."

himself to be courageous, energetic, and efficient, but the general impression is that he is a dissembler and his devotion to his accession to office seems to indicate a development of authoritative and domineering tendencies. He is a man of considerable contempt for the present Chamber and its members. At the moment he is the only man who can form a government. He is presently he has not put himself out of the way of doing one thing or word.

Of one thing we may be sure. Mr. Ferry is a man of probity and good faith, cool, practical, and sane. He is the finest argument the gambetta said of him.

There are men who have grown in office," Mr. Ferry said, "and I have not." He is a man of admirable patience and calm confidence in himself. He is a man capable of confronting all the difficulties of the day, and obstinate enough to carry out the most perilous projects.

T. H. C.

From the Mexican Financier.

Some remarkable pearls lately found near La Paz, Lower California, have excited much interest. Three such extraordinary events have taken place during the last month. Probably the largest pearl on record weighing seven and one-half carats, was found on the 15th of December. The shell from which it came cost \$14,000, which, however, was an insignificant sum compared with its real value. Now comes the announcement that one of the fishermen employed has just discovered a finely tinted and perfectly formed pearl weighing five and one-half carats, and valued on the spot at \$20,000; while yet another fisherman has just discovered